

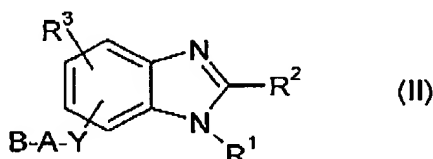
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PAGE 2
CASE 51786AUSM1CLAIM AMENDMENTS

The below listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a patient suffering from chronic inflammation comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of a benzimidazole compound of formula II



or a physiologically compatible salt thereof,
in which

R¹ means a ~~monocyclic or bicyclic C₆₋₁₂ aryl~~ phenyl group optionally substituted with up to three ~~of the following~~ substituents, which are independently of one another selected from the group consisting of [F], F, Cl, Br, I, C(NH)NH₂, C(NH)NHR⁴, C(NH)NR⁴R⁴, C(NR⁴)NH₂, C(NR⁴)NHR⁴, C(NR⁴)NR⁴R⁴, XOH, XOR⁴, XOCOR⁴, XOCONHR⁴, XOCOOR⁴, XCOR⁴, XC(NOH)R⁴, XC(NOR⁴)R⁴, XC(NO(COR⁴))R⁴, XCN, XCOOH, XCOOR⁴, XCONH₂, XCONR⁴R⁴, XCONHR⁴, XCONHOH, XCONHOR⁴, XCOSR⁴, XSR⁴, XSOR⁴, XSO₂R⁴, SO₂NH₂, SO₂NHR⁴, SO₂NR⁴R⁴, NO₂, XNH₂, XNHR⁴, XNR⁴R⁴, XNHSO₂R⁴, XN(SO₂R⁴)(SO₂R⁴), XNR⁴SO₂R⁴, XNHCOR⁴, XNHCOOR⁴, XNHCONHR⁴, tetrahydro-2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, 2,5-dihydro-2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, 2,7-dihydro-2,7-dioxoisindol-1-yl, and R⁴;

R² means a ~~monocyclic or bicyclic C₆₋₁₀ aryl~~ phenyl group optionally substituted with up to three ~~of the following~~ substituents, which are independently of one another selected from the group consisting of [F], F, Cl, Br, I, C(NH)NH₂, C(NH)NHR⁴, C(NH)NR⁴R⁴, C(NR⁴)NH₂, C(NR⁴)NHR⁴, C(NR⁴)NR⁴R⁴, XOH, XOR⁴, XOCOR⁴, XOCONHR⁴, XOCOOR⁴, XCOR⁴, XC(NOH)R⁴, XC(NOR⁴)R⁴, XC(NO(COR⁴))R⁴, XCN, XCOOH, XCOOR⁴, XCONH₂, XCONR⁴R⁴, XCONHR⁴, XCONHOH, XCONHOR⁴, XCOSR⁴, XSR⁴, XSOR⁴, XSO₂R⁴, SO₂NH₂, SO₂NHR⁴, SO₂NR⁴R⁴, NO₂, XNH₂, XNHR⁴, XNR⁴R⁴, XNHSO₂R⁴, XN(SO₂R⁴)(SO₂R⁴),

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$\text{XNR}^4\text{SO}_2\text{R}^4$, XNHCOR^4 , XNHCOOR^4 , XNHCONHR^4 , tetrahydro-2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, 2,5-dihydro-2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, 2,7-dihydro-2,7-dioxoisindol-1-yl, and $\text{R}^4[\text{G}]_2$;
 R^3 stands for one or two substituents which are each independently of one another selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, F, Cl, Br, I, XOH, XOR^4 , XOCOR^4 , XOCONHR^4 , XOCOOR^4 , XCOR^4 , $\text{XC}(\text{NOH})\text{R}^4$, $\text{XC}(\text{NOR}^4)\text{R}^4$, $\text{XC}(\text{NO}(\text{COR}^4))\text{R}^4$, XCN , XCOOH , XCOOR^4 , XCONH_2 , XCONHR^4 , XCONR^4R^4 , XCONHOH , XCONHOR^4 , XCOSR^4 , XSR^4 , XSOR^4 , XSO_2R^4 , SO_2NH_2 , SO_2NHR^4 , $\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^4\text{R}^4$, NO_2 , XNH_2 , XNHR^4 , XNR^4R^4 , XNHSO_2R^4 , $\text{XNR}^4\text{SO}_2\text{R}^4$, $\text{XN}(\text{SO}_2\text{R}^4)(\text{SO}_2\text{R}^4)$, XNHCOR^4 , XNHCOOR^4 , XNHCONHR^4 , tetrahydro-2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, ~~or 2,5-dihydro-2,5-dioxopyrrol-1-yl, 2,7-dihydro-2,7-dioxoisindol-1-yl, and $\text{R}^4[\text{G}]_2$~~ ;

R^4 and R^4 , independently of one another, mean C_{1-4} perfluoroalkyl, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkinyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, $(\text{C}_{1-3}\text{alkyl}-\text{C}_{3-7}\text{cycloalkyl})$, $\text{C}_{1-3}\text{alkyl}-\text{C}_{6-10}\text{aryl}$, ~~$\text{C}_{4-5}\text{alkyl}-5$ to 10-membered heteroaryl with 1-4 heteroatoms selected from N, S and O, or $\text{C}_{6-10}\text{aryl}$, or 5- to 10-membered heteroaryl with 1-4 heteroatoms selected from N, S and O atoms,~~

wherein the $\text{C}_{6-10}\text{aryl}$ ~~and heteroaryl groups are~~ is optionally substituted with one or two substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CH_3 , C_2H_5 , NO_2 , OCH_3 , OC_2H_5 , CF_3 , and $\text{C}_2\text{F}_5[\text{F}]$ or optionally carry an annelated methanediylbisoxy group or ethane-1,2-diylbisoxy group, ~~and wherein a 5-membered cycloalkyl ring optionally has an N or O ring member, and wherein a 6- or 7-membered cycloalkyl ring optionally has one or two ring members selected from N and O, wherein ring nitrogens optionally are substituted with $\text{C}_{1-3}\text{alkyl}$ or $\text{C}_{1-3}\text{alkanoyl}$,~~

R^6 and R^5 , independently of one another, mean hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkinyl, (wherein in each case a carbon atom is optionally replaced by O, S, SO, SO_2 , NH, $\text{NC}_{1-3}\text{alkyl}$ or $\text{NC}_{1-3}\text{alkanoyl}$), C_{3-7} cycloalkyl- $\text{C}_{0-3}\text{alkyl}$, ~~wherein a 5-membered cycloalkyl ring optionally has an N or O ring member and a 6- or 7-membered cycloalkyl ring optionally has one or two ring members selected from N and O, wherein ring nitrogens optionally are substituted with $\text{C}_{1-3}\text{alkyl}$ or $\text{C}_{1-3}\text{alkanoyl}$, or $\text{C}_{6-10}\text{aryl}$, or 5- to 10-membered heteroaryl with 1-4 heteroatoms selected from N, S, and O,~~ wherein the mentioned alkyl, alkenyl and alkinyl groups are optionally substituted with one of the previously mentioned cycloalkyls, or aryls, or heteroaryls,

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wherein all previously mentioned alkyl and cycloalkyl radicals are optionally substituted with up to two substituents selected from CF_3 , C_2F_5 , OH , O C_{1-3} alkyl, NH_2 NH_2 , NHC_{1-3} alkyl, NHC_{1-3} alkanoyl, $\text{N}(\text{C}_{1-3}$ alkyl) $_2$, $\text{N}(\text{C}_{1-3}$ alkyl)(C_{1-3} alkanoyl), COOH , CONH_2 , and COOC_{1-3} alkyl, and all previously mentioned aryl and heteroaryl groups are optionally substituted with one or two substituents selected from F , Cl , Br , CH_3 , C_2H_5 , NO_2 , OCH_3 , OC_2H_5 , CF_3 , and C_2F_5 or optionally carry an annelated methanediylbisoxy, or ethane-1,2-diylbisoxy group[[.]]; or

~~R^5 and R^6 together with the nitrogen atom form a 5 to 7 membered group, which optionally contains another oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur atom and is optionally substituted by C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy C_{0-2} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy carbonyl, aminocarbonyl or phenyl,~~

A means C_{1-10} alkanediyl, C_{2-10} alkenediyl, C_{2-10} alkinediyl, (C_{0-5} alkanediyl- C_{3-7} cycloalkanediyl- C_{0-5} alkanediyl), or (C_{0-5} alkanediylarylene- C_{0-5} alkanediyl), or (C_{0-5} alkanediyl heteroarylene- C_{0-5} alkanediyl), wherein the aryl and heteroaryl groups are is optionally substituted with one or two substituents selected from F , Cl , Br , CH_3 , C_2H_5 , NO_2 , OCH_3 , OC_2H_5 , CF_3 , and C_2F_5 , ~~wherein a 5 membered cycloalkyl ring optionally has a ring member selected from N and O, and a 6 or 7 membered cycloalkyl ring optionally has one or two ring members selected from N and O, wherein ring nitrogens optionally are substituted with C_{1-3} alkyl or C_{1-3} alkanoyl,~~

wherein in the mentioned aliphatic groups, one or two carbon atoms are each optionally replaced by O , NH , NR^4 , NCOR^4 , or NSO_2R^4 , and wherein alkyl or cycloalkyl groups are optionally substituted with up to two substituents selected from F , OH , OR^4 , OCOR^4 , $=\text{O}$, NH_2 , NR^4R^4 , NHCOR^4 , NHCOOR^4 , NHCONHR^4 , NHSO_2R^4 SH , and SR^4 [[.]];

B means ~~hydrogen, OH,~~ OCOR^5 , OCONHR^5 , OCOOR^5 , COR^5 , $\text{C}(\text{NOH})\text{R}^5$, $\text{C}(\text{NOR}^5)\text{R}^5$, $\text{C}(\text{NO}(\text{COR}^5))\text{R}^5$, COOH , COOR^5 , CONH_2 , CONHNH_2 , CONHR^5 , CONR^5R^5 , CONHOH , CONHOR^5 , SO_3H , SO_2NH_2 , SO_2NHR^5 , $\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^5\text{R}^5$, PO_3H , $\text{PO}(\text{OH})(\text{OR}^5)$, $\text{PO}(\text{OR}^5)(\text{OR}^5)$, $\text{PO}(\text{OH})(\text{NHR}^5)$, or $\text{PO}(\text{NHR}^5)(\text{NHR}^5)$, or ~~tetrazolyl, in each case~~ bonded to a carbon atom of group A[[.]];

or the entire group Y-A-B is $\text{N}(\text{SO}_2\text{R}^4)(\text{SO}_2\text{R}^4)$ or NHSO_2R^4 [[.]];

X means a bond, CH_2 , $(\text{CH}_2)_2$, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)$, $(\text{CH}_2)_3$, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3)$, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_2$, or $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)$ [[.]] and

Y means a bond, O , S , SO , SO_2 , NH , NR^4 , NCOR^4 , or NSO_2R^4 .

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16. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein
 R^1 means a ~~monocyclic or bicyclic~~ C_{6-12} aryl phenyl group optionally substituted with up to three ~~of the following~~ substituents, which are independently of one another selected from the group consisting of $[F]$ F, Cl, Br, XOH, XOR^4 , $XOCOR^4$, $XOCONHR^4$, $XOCOOR^4$, $XCOR^4$, XCN, COOH, $XCOOR^4$, $XCONH_2$, $XCONR^4R^4$, $XCONHR^4$, $XCONHOH$, $XCONHOR^4$, $XCOSR^4$, XSR^4 , NO_2 , $XNHR^4$, XNR^4R^4 , and R^4 .
17. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein $[F]$
 R^2 means a ~~monocyclic or bicyclic~~ C_{6-10} aryl phenyl group optionally substituted with up to three ~~of the following~~ substituents, which are independently of one another selected from the group consisting of $[F]$ F, Cl, Br, XOH, XOR^4 , $XOCOR^4$, $XOCONHR^4$, $XOCOOR^4$, $XCOR^4$, $XC(NOHR^4)R^4$, $XC(NOR^4)R^4$, $XC(NO(COR^4))R^4$, XCN, XCOOH, $XCOOR^4$, $XCONH_2$, $XCONR^4R^4$, $XCONHR^4$, $XCONHOH$, $XCONHOR^4$, $XCOSR^4$, XSR^4 , $XSOR^4$, XSO_2R^4 , SO_2NH_2 , SO_2NHR^4 , $SO_2NR^4R^4$, NO_2 , XNH_2 , $XNHR^4$, XNR^4R^4 , $XNHSO_2R^4$, $XN(SO_2R^4)(SO_2R^4)$, $XNR^4SO_2R^4$, $XNHCOR^4$, $XNHCOOR^4$, $XNHCONHR^4$, and R^4 .
18. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein
 R^3 stands for one or two substituents, which independently of one another, ~~each mean: are selected from the group consisting of~~ $[F]$ hydrogen, F, Cl, Br, XOH, XOR^4 , $XOCOR^4$, $XOCONHR^4$, $XOCOOR^4$, $XCOR^4$, $XC(NOHR^4)R^4$, $XC(NOR^4)R^4$, $XC(NO(COR^4))R^4$, XCN, XSR^4 , $XSOR^4$, XSO_2R^4 , SO_2NH_2 , SO_2NHR^4 , $SO_2NR^4R^4$, NO_2 , XNH_2 , $XNHR^4$, XNR^4R^4 , $XNHSO_2R^4$, $XNR^4SO_2R^4$, $XN(SO_2R^4)(SO_2R^4)$, $XNHCOR^4$, $XNHCOOR^4$, $XNHCONHR^4$, or and R^4 .
19. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein
 R^4 and R^4 , independently of one another, mean CF_3 , C_2F_5 , C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-4} alkenyl, C_{2-4} alkinyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, $(C_{1-3}$ alkyl- C_{3-6} cycloalkyl), C_{1-3} alkylaryl, ~~C_{4-3} alkylheteroaryl, or monocyclic aryl, or 5- to 6-membered heteroaryl with 1-2 heteroatoms selected from N, S and O,~~ wherein the aryl ~~and heteroaryl~~ groups are is optionally substituted with one or two substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CH_3 , C_2H_5 , NO_2 , OCH_3 , OC_2H_5 , CF_3 , and C_2F_5 , or optionally carry an annelated

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methanediylbisoxo or ethane-1,2-diylbisoxo group, and wherein a 5-membered cycloalkyl ring optionally has a ring member selected from N and O, and a 6-membered cycloalkyl ring optionally has one or two ring members selected from N and O, wherein ring nitrogens optionally are substituted with C_{1-3} alkyl or C_{1-3} alkanoyl.

20. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein R^5 and R^6 , independently of one another, are optionally C_{1-6} alkyl (wherein a carbon atom is optionally replaced by O, NH, NC_{1-3} alkyl, or NC_{1-3} alkanoyl), or C_{3-7} cycloalkyl- C_{0-3} alkyl, wherein a 5-membered cycloalkyl ring optionally has a ring member selected from N and O, and a 6- or 7-membered cycloalkyl ring optionally has one or two ring members selected from N and O, wherein ring nitrogens optionally are substituted with C_{1-3} alkyl or C_{1-3} alkanoyl, wherein the mentioned C_{1-6} alkyl group is optionally substituted with one of the previously mentioned cycloalkyls, or a 5- to 6-membered heteroaromatic group with 1-2 heteroatoms selected from N, S and O, wherein all previously mentioned alkyl and cycloalkyl groups are optionally substituted with up to two substituents selected from CF_3 , OH, and OC_{1-3} alkyl, and the previously mentioned heteroaryl groups are optionally substituted with one or two substituents selected from F, Cl, CF_3 , CH_3 , C_2H_5 , OCH_3 , and OC_2H_5 , or R^5 and R^6 together with the nitrogen atom form a 5- to 7-membered heterocyclic group which optionally contains another oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur atom and is optionally substituted by C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy- C_{0-2} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy-carbonyl, aminocarbonyl or phenyl.
21. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein A means C_{1-10} alkanediyl, C_{2-10} alkenediyl, C_{2-10} alkinediyl, or (C_{0-5} alkanediyl- C_{3-7} cycloalkanediyl- C_{0-5} alkanediyl), or (C_{0-6} alkanediyl-heteroarylene- C_{0-6} alkanediyl), wherein when a heteroaryl group is present it is optionally substituted with one or two substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CH_3 , C_2H_5 , NO_2 , OCH_3 , OC_2H_5 , CF_3 , and C_2F_5 , and wherein a 5-membered cycloalkyl ring optionally has a ring member selected from N and O, and a 6- or 7-membered cycloalkyl ring optionally has one or two ring members selected

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~~from N and O, wherein ring nitrogens optionally are substituted with C₁₋₃ alkyl or C₁₋₃ alkanoyl,~~

wherein in the aliphatic groups one or two carbon atoms are optionally replaced by O, NH, NC₁₋₃alkyl, NC₁₋₃alkanoyl, or NSO₂C₁₋₃alkyl, and wherein alkyl or cycloalkyl groups are optionally substituted with up to two F atoms or by one of the substituents selected from OH, OC₁₋₃alkyl, OC₁₋₃alkanoyl, =O, NH₂, NHC₁₋₃alkyl, N(C₁₋₃ alkyl)₂, NHC₁₋₃alkanoyl, N(C₁₋₃ alkyl)(C₁₋₃ alkanoyl), NHCOOC₁₋₃alkyl, NHCONHC₁₋₃alkyl, NHSO₂C₁₋₃alkyl, SH, and SC₁₋₃alkyl.

22. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein
B means ~~hydrogen, OH,~~ OCOR⁵, OCONHR⁵, OCOOR⁵, COOH, COOR⁵, CONH₂, CONHR⁵, CONR⁵R⁵, CONHOH, or CONHOR⁵, ~~or tetrazolyl,~~ in each case bonded to a carbon atom of group A.
23. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein
X means a bond or CH₂.
24. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein
Y means a bond, O, S, NH, NR⁴, NCOR⁴ or NSO₂R⁴.
25. (Cancelled)
26. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein said compound is 6-[[1-(4-methylphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy] hexanoic isopropyl ester.
- 27-28. (Cancelled)
29. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein
R¹ means a ~~monocyclic or bicyclic C₆₋₁₂-aryl~~ phenyl group optionally substituted with up to three ~~of the following~~ substituents, which are independently of one another selected from the group consisting of ~~[[:]]~~ F, Cl, Br, XOH, XOR⁴, XOCOR⁴, XOCONHR⁴, XOCOOR⁴, XCOR⁴, XCN, COOH, XCOOR⁴, XCONH₂, XCONR⁴R⁴, XCONHR⁴, XCONHOH, XCONHOR⁴, XCOSR⁴, XSR⁴, NO₂, XNHR⁴, XNR⁴R⁴, and R⁴;

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- R^2 means a ~~monocyclic or bicyclic~~ C_{6-10} -aryl phenyl group optionally substituted with up to three ~~of the following~~ substituents, which are independently of one another selected from the group consisting of $[]$ F, Cl, Br, XOH, XOR^4 , $XOCOR^4$, $XOCONHR^4$, $XOCOOR^4$, $XCOR^4$, $XC(NOH)R^4$, $XC(NOR^4)R^4$, $XC(NO(COR^4))R^4$, XCN , $XCOOH$, $XCOOR^4$, $XCONH_2$, $XCONR^4R^4$, $XCONHR^4$, $XCONHOH$, $XCONHOR^4$, $XCOSR^4$, XSR^4 , $XSOR^4$, XSO_2R^4 , SO_2NH_2 , SO_2NHR^4 , $SO_2NR^4R^4$, NO_2 , XNH_2 , $XNHR^4$, XNR^4R^4 , $XNH SO_2R^4$, $XN(SO_2R^4)(SO_2R^4)$, $XNR^4SO_2R^4$, $XNHCOR^4$, $XNHCOOR^4$, $XNHCONHR^4$, and R^4 ;
- R^3 is one or two substituents, which independently of one another, ~~each mean:~~ are selected from the group consisting of $[]$ hydrogen, F, Cl, Br, XOH, XOR^4 , $XOCOR^4$, $XOCONHR^4$, $XOCOOR^4$, $XCOR^4$, $XC(NOH)R^4$, $XC(NOR^4)R^4$, $XC(NO(COR^4))R^4$, XCN , XSR^4 , $XSOR^4$, XSO_2R^4 , SO_2NH_2 , SO_2NHR^4 , $SO_2NR^4R^4$, NO_2 , XNH_2 , $XNHR^4$, XNR^4R^4 , $XNH SO_2R^4$, $XNR^4SO_2R^4$, $XN(SO_2R^4)(SO_2R^4)$, $XNHCOR^4$, $XNHCOOR^4$, $XNHCONHR^4$, or and R^4 ;
- R^4 and R^4 , independently of one another, mean CF_3 , C_2F_5 , C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-4} alkenyl, C_{2-4} alkinyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, $(C_{1-3}$ alkyl- C_{3-6} cycloalkyl), C_{1-3} alkylaryl, C_{4-3} alkylheteroaryl, or monocyclic aryl, or 5- to 6-membered heteroaryl with 1-2 heteroatoms selected from N, S and O, wherein the aryl and heteroaryl groups are is optionally substituted with one or two substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CH_3 , C_2H_5 , NO_2 , OCH_3 , OC_2H_5 , CF_3 , and C_2F_5 , or optionally carry an annelated methanediylbisoxy or ethane-1,2-diylbisoxy group, and wherein a 5-membered cycloalkyl ring optionally has a ring member selected from N and O, and a 6-membered cycloalkyl ring optionally has one or two ring members selected from N and O, wherein ring nitrogens optionally are substituted with C_{1-3} alkyl or C_{1-3} alkanoyl;
- R^5 and R^5 , independently of one another, are C_{1-6} alkyl (wherein a carbon atom is optionally replaced by O, NH, NC_{1-3} alkyl, or NC_{1-3} alkanoyl), C_{3-7} cycloalkyl- C_{0-3} alkyl, wherein a 5-membered cycloalkyl ring optionally has a ring member selected from N and O, and a 6- or 7-membered cycloalkyl ring optionally has one or two ring members selected from N and O, wherein ring nitrogens optionally are substituted with C_{1-3} alkyl or C_{1-3} alkanoyl, wherein the mentioned C_{1-6} alkyl group is optionally substituted with one of the previously mentioned cycloalkyls, or a 5- to 6-membered heteroaromatic group with 1-2 heteroatoms selected from N, S and O,

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wherein all previously mentioned alkyl and cycloalkyl groups are optionally substituted with up to two substituents selected from CF_3 , OH, and $\text{OC}_{1-3}\text{alkyl}[\text{L}]$; ~~and the previously mentioned heteroaryl groups are optionally substituted with one or two substituents selected from F, Cl, CF_3 , CH_3 , C_2H_5 , OCH_3 , and OC_2H_5~~

or R^6 and R^6 together with the nitrogen atom form a 5- to 7-membered heterocyclic group which optionally contains another oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur atom and is optionally substituted by C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{0-2} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy-carbonyl, aminocarbonyl or phenyl;

A means C_{1-10} alkanediyl, C_{2-10} alkenediyl, C_{2-10} alkinediyl, or (C_{0-5} alkanediyl- C_{3-7} cycloalkanediyl- C_{0-5} alkanediyl), ~~or~~ (C_{0-5} alkanediyl-heteroarylene- C_{0-5} alkanediyl), wherein when a heteroaryl group is present it is optionally substituted with one or two substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CH_3 , C_2H_5 , NO_2 , OCH_3 , OC_2H_5 , CF_3 , and C_2F_5 , and wherein a 5-membered cycloalkyl ring optionally has a ring member selected from N and O, and a 6- or 7-membered cycloalkyl ring optionally has one or two ring members selected from N and O, wherein ring nitrogens optionally are substituted with C_{1-3} alkyl or C_{1-3} alkanoyl, wherein in the aliphatic groups one or two carbon atoms are optionally replaced by O, NH, $\text{NC}_{1-3}\text{alkyl}$, $\text{NC}_{1-3}\text{alkanoyl}$, or $\text{NSO}_2\text{C}_{1-3}\text{alkyl}$, and wherein alkyl or cycloalkyl groups are optionally substituted with up to two F atoms or by one of the substituents selected from OH, $\text{OC}_{1-3}\text{alkyl}$, $\text{OC}_{1-3}\text{alkanoyl}$, =O, NH_2 , $\text{NHC}_{1-3}\text{-alkyl}$, $\text{N}(\text{C}_{1-3}\text{ alkyl})_2$, $\text{NHC}_{1-3}\text{alkanoyl}$, $\text{N}(\text{C}_{1-3}\text{alkyl})(\text{C}_{1-3}\text{alkanoyl})$, $\text{NHCOOC}_{1-3}\text{alkyl}$, $\text{NHCONHC}_{1-3}\text{alkyl}$, $\text{NHSO}_2\text{C}_{1-3}\text{alkyl}$, SH, and $\text{SC}_{1-3}\text{alkyl}$;

B means ~~hydrogen, OH, OCOR^5 , OCONHR^5 , OCOOR^5 , COOH , COOR^5 , CONH_2 , CONHR^5 , CONR^5R^5 , CONHOH , or CONHOR^5~~ , or tetrazolyl, in each case bonded to a carbon atom of group A;

X means a bond or CH_2 ; and

Y means a bond, O, S, NH, NR^4 , NCOR^4 or NSO_2R^4 .

30. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein (a) in R^1 , R^2 said aryl groups are ~~substituted or unsubstituted phenyl, biphenyl, naphthyl, indane, or fluorenyl;~~ and (b) in R^4 , R^4 , R^5 and R^5 , said aryl groups are substituted or unsubstituted phenyl, biphenyl, naphthyl, indane, or fluorenyl, ~~and said heteroaryl group are substituted or unsubstituted pyrrolyl, thienyl, furanyl, imidazolyl, thiazolyl,~~

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~~isothiazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, pyrazolyl, furazanyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, thienoimidazolyl, indolyl, isoindolyl, benzothiophenyl, benzofuranyl, benzimidazolyl, indazolyl, imidazopyridinyl, purinyl, quinolyl, isoquinolyl, phthalazinyl, quinazolinyl, quinaxolinyl, cinnolinyl, naphthyridinyl or pteridinyl.~~

31-33. (Cancelled)

34. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein said patient is suffering from a stroke.

35-44. (Cancelled)

45. (New) A method for treating a patient suffering from chronic inflammation comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of the benzimidazole compound 6-[[1-(4-methylphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy] hexanoic isopropyl ester or 6-[[1-(4-methylphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy] hexanoic acid.

46. (New) A method according to claim 45, wherein said compound is 6-[[1-(4-methylphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy] hexanoic isopropyl ester.

47. (New) A method according to claim 45, wherein said patient is suffering from a stroke.

48. (New) A method according to claim 47, wherein said compound is 6-[[1-(4-methylphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]oxy] hexanoic isopropyl ester.